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VITALIY GRIGOR'YEVICH KHLOPIN -- IN MEMORIAM

Academician V. G. Khlopin, one of the foremost Soviet chemists, died on 10 July 1950 after a prolonged and serious illness.

Khlopin's scientific activities started in his father's, Professor G. V. Khlopin, laboratory in 1911. Soon after he finished his university training, he worked in Professor L. A. Chugayev's laboratory. It was at this time that he conducted important work on the chemistry of complex compounds. He is given credit for being the first to synthesize platinum compounds of the hydroxy-pentamine series as well as the synthesis of derivatives of monovalent nickel. During World War I, Khlopin distinguished himself by his work on the production of chemicals of military importance.

His achievements earned him the friendship of Academician V. I. Vernadskiy, who invited the young scientist to study the chemistry of radioactive elements. In the period 1918 to 1922, Khlopin, on being requested by V. I. Lenin to conduct research to determine the possibility of obtaining radium from raw materials found in the USSR, developed successful technological processes for that purpose and organized the first USSR industrial plant for the production of radium.

Khlopin, together with Vernadskiy, organized the Radium Institute. Until his death, he was the director of the Radium Institute, having been its deputy director until 1939. At this institute, Khlopin, along with his associates, conducted much valuable research on the behavior of radioactive elements in diluted solutions, as well as on the chemistry of various radioactive elements and noble gases and on the determination of absolute geologic age utilizing radioactive methods.

In addition to much scientific research, Khlopin also took part in pedagogical and organizational work. In 1924, he organized a course on radioactivity and radiochemistry at the Leningrad State University. In 1925, he was elected a member of the Committee for Chemicalization of the Nation. In 1926, he became a member of the Commission for the Mobilization of the Nation.

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He was also a member of the Committee for Chemicalization of the National Economy, deputy chairman of the Commission for the Mobilization of Resources of the Volga and Prikama Regions, supervised (in the capacity of director) the operations of the Department of Chemical Sciences, Academy of Sciences USSR, and was a member of the editorial board of the periodical Doklady Akademii Nauk SSSR.

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